

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A program product for use by a station in a wireless communications environment wherein multiple channels are available for communication, and wherein the station is associated with an access point, the program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

program code operable to receive Announce messages from access points, the Announce messages indicating the access points' presence, ~~and~~ protocol capability to the station, and current transmission power attenuation relative to maximum possible transmission power;

program code operable to periodically attempt to select at least one access point from which an Announce message was received, the selection based at least in-part on an indication that the selected access point will provide better service than the access point with which the station is currently associated, and based at least in-part on the transmission power attenuation;

program code operable to send a Bid message to the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point;

program code operable in response to receipt of an Accept message from the selected access point to reconfigure the station to communicate via the selected access point, the Accept message indicating that the access point will allow the station to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point.

2. (previously presented) The program product of claim 1 further comprising:

program code operable to generate a registration request message for transmission to the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point using a particular protocol;

program code operable to receive and process a registration acknowledge messages from the selected access point in response to the Registration Request message, the registration acknowledge message indicating that the selected access point understands that the station will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the particular protocol.

3. (previously presented) The program product of claim 1 wherein the selection program code is operable to select the access point likely to provide the highest data rate.